

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-07 IO-13  
EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 ARA-06 /111 W  
-----261727Z 126037 /46

R 261536Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7699  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07129

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CDU SECRETARY GENERAL  
HEINRICH GEISSLER

SUMMARY: HEINRICH GEISSLER, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE CDU, HAS TOLD ME THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE  
STILL PLANNING ON THREE MORE YEARS OF AN SPD/FDP  
GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH THEY NOW BELIEVE THAT SCHMIDT'S  
CHANCES OF SURVIVING THE FULL TERM ARE MUCH LOWER THAN  
THEY APPEARED SOME MONTHS AGO. HE SAID THE CDU AND CSU  
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OPPOSITION PARTIES GENERALLY WORK WELL TOGETHER, EXCEPT  
FOR SOME PERSONALITY CONFLICTS "AT THE TOP," AND WOULD  
SOON BE HOLDING STRATEGY SESSIONS DESIGNED TO ELABORATE  
THEIR PLANNING FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS. HE ALSO TOLD ME  
THAT THE OPPOSITION SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS  
NUCLEAR POLICY. TURNING TO EUROPE, HE SAID THE  
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WERE

PLANNING GREATER COLLABORATION BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WISH A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY

1. DURING MY CALL APRIL 25 ON THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CDU HEINRICH GEISSLER, HE SAID THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE FRG DOMESTIC SITUATION. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SPD/FDP COALITION IS FLOUNDERING AND DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO GO. TENSIONS WITHIN THE COALITION ARE RISING. SCHMIDT IS PRONE TO LOSING HIS TEMPER AND LECTURING, AS HE DID AT BILDEBERG THIS LAST WEEKEND. THE FDP IS UNCERTAIN WHAT TO DO BUT WILL FOLLOW WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE POPULAR TREND. IT DOES NOT WISH TO BE STUCK WITH A LOSING GOVERNMENT.

DEVELOPMENTS IN HESSE WILL BE CRUCIAL. IF THE COALITION HOLDS, AND IF BOERNER TURNS OUT TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MINISTER-PRESIDENT, THE SPD AND FDP WILL BE MUCH STRONGER THERE NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, IF TENSIONS PERSIST IN THE COALITION, THEY CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE BONN COALITION.

(B) THE OPPOSITION ATTITUDE. THE CDU AND CSU REMAIN SET FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS IN OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, ALL AGREE THAT A COALITION WITH THE FDP WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN ORDER TO RETURN THE CDU/CSU TO THE GOVERNMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TACTICS OF THE OPPOSITION ARE TO BURN NO BRIDGES AND TO TREAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION AS "OPPONENTS", NOT "ENEMIES."

MUCH IS MADE OF ALLEGED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CDU AND CSU VIEWS. ACTUALLY, THE TWO PARTIES AGREE AND WORK VERY WELL TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY AT THE WORKING LEVELS AND LOWER LEVELS. THERE ARE PERSONALITY CONFLICTS AT THE TOP (COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY KOHL AND STRAUSS) BUT THOSE DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED.

THERE WILL BE AN OPPOSITION MEETING NEXT MONTH OF KOHL, STRAUSS, GEISSLER, AND CSU MANAGER TANDLER. THEY WILL DISCUSS MAJOR MATTERS OF STRATEGY. AFTER THAT, PROBABLY IN JUNE, THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMISSION THAT WAS FORMERLY AGREED UPON BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES LAST FALL (AT CSU INSISTENCE).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07129

THE STRATEGY COMMISSION WILL FOCUS ON FOUR  
SUBSTANTIVE AREAS: (1) ECONOMIC MATTERS, PARTICULARLY  
CONCENTRATING ON HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH, WHO ARE  
SUBJECT TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE; (2) NORTH/SOUTH  
MATTERS; (3) ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY MATTERS; (4) OST-  
POLITIK, THE MOST SENSITIVE SUBJECT FOR THE CDU/CSU  
BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION'S OWN DIVISIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

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(C) THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES AND EUROPE. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE JOINED IN THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES' PARTY AND WILL WORK TOGETHER IN THE NEW ELECTED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY. THEY WILL ALSO TRY TO ESTABLISH SOME MEANS OF COLLABORATION WITH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE BRITISH, BUT THIS KIND OF COLLABORATION CREATES PROBLEMS FOR THE ITALIAN DC AND FOR THE BELGIANS UNDER TINDEMANN. IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT FORMS OF COLLABORATION CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH THE FRENCH CONSERVATIVES. NONETHELESS, IT APPEARS THAT SOME FORMS OF COLLABORATION CAN BE DEVELOPED BECAUSE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND CONSERVA-

TIVES ALIKE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID HAVING A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT--MOST PROBABLY BRANDT--AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY. AT PRESENT, IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN HOW THE VOTING FOR THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY WILL BE ORGANIZED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

(D) THE UNITED STATES. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT US POLICY, IN WHICH I EXPLAINED THE BASIC THRUST OF OUR POLICIES AND ATTITUDES, GEISSLER SAID THE CDU AND CSU SUPPORTED THE POLICIES OF THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE FIRM LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS PROVIDING SUCH LEADERSHIP. TURNING TO THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, HOWEVER, GEISSLER SAID HE HOPED IT WAS UNDERSTOOD IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THE OPPOSITION IN THE FRG SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ATOMIC ENERGY POLICY AND SPECIFICALLY THE BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT LETTING THIS BECOME AN ISSUE DAMAGING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES. STOESEL

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